

MAJESTIES

DECLARATION

To both *Houses* of Parliament;
(Which Hee likewise re-
commends to the consideration of all
His loving Subjects) in Answer to That
presented to Him at *New-Market* the
ninth of March. 1641.



Printed at *London* for *Thomas Bankes*. 1642.



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Though the Declaration lately presented to Us at *New-Market*, from both Our Houses of Parliament, be of so strange a nature, in respect of what Wee expected (after so many Acts of Grace and Favour to Our People) and some expressions in it so different from the usuall Language to Princes, that we might well take a very long time to consider it; Yet the clearenesse and uprightness of Our Conscience to God, and love to Our Subjects, hath supplied Us with a speedy Answer, and our unalterable Affection to Our People prevailed with Us, to suppress that passion, which might well enough become Us, upon such an Invitation.

We have reconsidered Our Answer of the first of this Moneth at *Theobalds*, which is urged to have given just cause of sorrow to Our Subjects. Whosoever looks over that Message (which was in effect to tell Us, That if We would not joyne with them (in an Act which We conceived might prove prejudiciall and dangerous to Us and the whole Kingdome) they would make a Law without Us, and impose it upon Our People) will not thinke that sudden Answer can bee excepted to.

Wee

Wee have little encouragement to Replies of this nature, when We are told of how little value Our words are like to bee with you, though they come accompanied with all the Actions of Love and Justice, (where there is roome for Actions to accompany them) yet We cannot but disavow the having any such evill Counsell or Counsellours about Us, to Our knowledge, as are mentioned, and if any such be discovered, Wee will leave them to the censure and Judgement of Our Parliament. In the mean time, We could wish, that Our owne immediate Actions, which We avow, and Our owne Honour might not be so roughly censured and wounded, under that common stile of Evill Counsellours.

For Our faithfull and zealous affection to the true Protestant Profession, and Our resolution to concur with Our Parliament in any possible course for the propagation of it, and suppression of Popery, We can say no more then We have already expressed in Our Declaration to all Our loving Subjects, published in *January* last, by the advice of Our Privy Counsell, in which We endeavoured to make as lively a confession of Our Selfe, in this point, as We were able, being most assured that the constant Practice of Our Life hath bin answerable thereunto: And therefore We did rather expect a Testimony and Acknowledgement of such Our Zeale and Piety, then those expressions We meet with in this Declaration, of any designe of altering Religion in this Kingdome. And We doe (out of the innocency of Our Soule) wish, That the Judgements of Heaven may be manifested upon those, who have, or had any such Designe.

As for the Scots troubles, We had well thought that those unhappy differences had bin wrapt up in perpetuall silence, by the Act of Oblivion, which being solemnly past in the Parliaments of both Kingdomes, stops Our mouth from any other Reply then to shew Our great dislike for reviving the memory thereof.

If the Rebellion in *Ireland*, (so odious to all Christians) seemes to have bin framed and maintained in *England*, or to have any countenance from hence, We conjure both Our Houses of Parliament, and all Our loving Subjects whatsoever, to use all possible meanes to discover and find such out, that We may joyne in the most exemplary vengeance upon them that can be imagined: But Wee must thinke Our Selfe highly and causlessly injured in Our Reputation, if any Declaration, Action, or Expression of the *Irish* Rebels, any Letter from

Count *Rosetti* to the Papists, for fasting and praying, or from *Trestram Whitcombe*, of strange speeches uttered in Ireland shall beget any jealousy, or misapprehension in Our Subjects, of our Iustice, Piety, and affection, it being evident to all understandings, That those mischievous and wicked Rebels are not so capable of great advantage, as by having their false discourses so farre believed, as to raise feares and Icalousies to the distraction of this Kingdome, the onely way to their security : And VVe cannot expresse a deeper sence of the suffering of our poor Protestant Subjects in that Kingdome, then we have done in Our often Messages to both Houses, by which VVe have offered, and are still ready to venture Our Royall Person for their Redemption, well knowing, that as We are (in our owne Interest) more concerned in them, so we are to make a strict Account to Almighty God for any neglect of Our duty, or their preservation.

For the manifold attempts to provoke Our late Army, and the Army of the Scots, and to raise a faction in the City of London, and other parts of the Kingdome; If it be said, as relating to Vs, VVe cannot without great indignation, suffer Our Selfe to be reproached, to have intended the least Force or threatening to Our Parliament, as the being privy to the bringing up of the Army would imply : VVhercas wee call God to witnesse, VVe never had any such thought, or knew of any such resolution concerning our late Army.

For the Petition shewed to Vs by Captaine *Legg*, VVe well remember the same, and the occasion of that Conference; Captaine *Legg* being lately come out of the North, and repairing to Vs at VVhite-hall, VVe asked him of the state of our Armie, and (after some relation made of it) he told Vs that the Commanders and Officers of the Armie had a mind to Petition the Parliament, as others of Our people had done, and shewed Vs the copy of a Petition, which VV= read, and finding it to be very humble, desiring the Parliament may receive no interruption in the Reformation of the Church and State, to the modell of *Queen Elizabeths* dayes; VVe told him, VVe saw no harme in it : VVhercupon he replied, That he believed all the Officers of the Army would like it, onely he thought Sir *Iacob Asbley* would

would be unwilling to signe it, out of fear that it might displease Vs. VVe then read the Petition over againe, and then observing nothing in matter or forme, VVe conceived could possibly give just cause of offence, We delivered it to him again, bidding him give it to Sir *Jacob Aspley*, for whose satisfaction VVe had written *C. R.* upon it, to testifie Our approbation; and VVe wish that the Petition might be seen and published, and then VVe believe it will prove dangerous one, nor a just ground for the least jealousie or misapprehension.

For Master *Sermyn*, it is well knowne, that he was gone from *Whitehall* before we received the desire of both Houses for the restraint of Our servants, neither returned he thither, or passed over by any warrant granted by Vs after that time.

For the breach of Priviledge in the Accusation of the Lord *Kymbolton*, and the five Members of the House of Commons, We thought We had given so ample satisfaction in Our severall Messages to that purpose, that it should bee no more pressed against Vs, being confident if the breach of Priviledge had been greater than hath been ever before offered, Our acknowledgement and retraction hath been greater than ever King hath given, besides the not examining how many of Our Priviledges have beene invaded in defence and vindication of the other? And therefore We hoped Our true and earnest Protestation in Our Answer to your Order concerning the *Militia*, would so far have satisfied you of Our intentions then, that you would no more have entertained any imagination of any other designe then VVe there expressed.

But why the listing of so many Officers, and entertaining them at *Whitehall* should be misconstrued, Wee much marvell, when it is notoriously known, the tumults at *Westminster* were so great, and their demeanours so scandalous and seditious, that We had good cause to suppose our owne Person, and those of Our Wife and Children to be in apparant danger, and therefore We had great reason to appoynt a Guard about Vs, and to accept the dutifull tender of the services of any of Our loving Subjects, which was all We did to the Gentlemen of the Innes of Court.

For the Lord *Digby*, We assure you in the word of a King,
that

that he had Our Warrant to passe the Seas, and had left Our Court before We ever heard of the Vote of the House of Commons, or had any cause to imagine that his absence would have been excepted against.

What y^r. advertisement is from *Rome, Venice, Paris*, and other parts, or what th^e *Popes Nuncio* sollicitis the Kings of *France* or *Spain* to do, or from what persons such Informations come to you, or how the credit and reputation of such persons have been lifted and examined, We know not, but are confident, no sober honest man in our Kingdomes can beleieve that we are so desperate or so senselesse, to entertaine such Designes as would not onely bury this Our Kingdome in suddaine destruction and ruine, but Our owne Name and Posterity in perpetuall scornes and infamy. And therefore wee could have wished, that in matters of so high and tender a nature (wherewith the mindes of Our good Subjects must needs be startled) all the expressions were so plain and easie, that nothing might stick with them with reflection upon Vs; since you thought fit to publish it at all.

And having now dealt thus plainly and freely with you by way of Answer to the particular grounds of your Feares, We hope (upon a due consideration, and weighing both together) you will not find the Grounds to be of that moment to beget, or longer to continue a misunderstanding betwixt Vs, or force you to apply yourselves to the use of any other power than what the Law hath given you, the which We allwayes intend shall be the measure of our owne power, and expect it shall be the rule of Our Subjects obedience.

Concerning our feares and jealousies, as We had no intention of accusing you, so are we sure no words spoken by Vs (on the sodaine) at Theobalds will beare that interpretation. Wee said for our Residence neare you, We wisht it might be so safe and honourable, that Wee had no cause to absent Our selfe from White-Hall, and how this can be a breach of Priviledg of Parliament We cannot understand. Wee explained our meaning in Our Answer at New-Market, at the Presentation of this Declaration concerning the printed seditious pamphlets and Sermons, & the great tumults at Westminster: And We must appeal to you and all the world, whether We might not justly suppose Our self

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in danger of either. And if We were now at White-Hall, what security have We, that the like shall not be againe, especially if any Delinquents of that nature have beene apprehended by the Ministers of Iustice, and been rescued by the People, and so as yet escape unpunished? If you have not beene informed of the seditious words used, and the circumstances of those Tumults, and will appoint some way for the examination of them, We will require some of Our learned Counsell to attend with such evidence as may satisfie you, and till that be done, or some other course taken for Our security, you cannot (with reason) wonder that Wee intend not to be where Wee most desire to bee.

And can there yet want evidence of Our hearty and importunate desire to joyne with Our Parliament, and all Our faithfull Subjects, in defence of the Religion and publique good of the Kingdome? Have We given you no other earnest but words, to secure you of those desires? The very Remonstrance of the House of Commons (published in November last) of the State of the Kingdome allowes Vs a more reall testimonie of Our good affections then words, that Remonstrance valued Our Acts of grace and Iustice at so high a rate, that it declared the Kingdome to bee then a gainer, though it had charged it selfe by Bills of Subsidies and Pul-money, with the levy of 600000. pounds, besides the contracting of a debt to our Scotch Subjects of 200000. pounds.

Are the bills for the Trienniall Parliament, for relinquishing Our Title of Imposing upon Merchandize, and power of pressing of Souldiers, for the taking away the Star-Chamber, and high-Commission Courts, for the regulating the Counsell Table, but words? Are the Bills for the Forrests, the Stannery Courts, the Clerk of the Marker, and the taking away the Votes of Bishops out of the Lords House, but words? Lastly, what greater earnest of Our trust and reliance on Our Parliament could or can Wee give, then the passing of the Bill for the continuance of this present Parliament? The length of which Wee hope will never alter the nature of Parliaments, and the constitution of this Kingdome, or invite Our Subjects so much to abuse Our Confidence as to esteem any thing fit for this Parliament to doe, which were not, if it were in Our power to dissolve it to morrow. And after

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for all these and many other Acts of Grace on Our part (that We might be sure of a perfect Reconciliation betwixt Vs and al Our Subjects) We have offered, and are still ready to grant a free and generall pardon, as ample as your selves shall thinke fit. Now if these be not real expressions of the Affections of Our Soule, for the publike good of Our Kingdome, We must confesse that Wee want skill to manifest them.

To conclude (although We thinke Our Answer already full to that point) concerning our Returne to London: We are willing to declare; that wee looke upon it as a matter of so great weight, as with reference to the Affaires of this Kingdome, and to Our owne inclinations and desires, that if all We can say, or doe, can raise a mutual Confidence (the onely way with Gods blessing to make us all happy) and by your encouragement the lawes of the Land, and the government of the City of London, may recover some life for Our security, Wee will overtake your desires, and be as soone with you as you can wish. And in the meane time, We will be sure, that neither the businesse of Ireland, or any other advantage for this Kingdome shall suffer through Our default, or by Our absence: We being so far from repenting the Acts of Our Justice, and Grace, which We have already performed to Our people, that We shall with the same Alacrity, be still ready to adde such new Ones, as may best advance the peace Honour and prosperity of this Nation.

FINIS.

